

Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee Members,

As a taxpayer that grew up on a farm and enjoy the outdoors, hiking, camping, biking, canoeing, and horseback riding, I support your bill to limit the amount of land that the state can buy up, log off, and limit access to. I have recently attended some meeting regarding the enforcement of a semi-primitive designation and extinct species protection in sections of the Huron-Manistee National Forest in the Pine's Point area of Hesperia and other areas on the West side of the state. Forest roads are being closed off to vehicles and horse traffic, camping sites are being cut back to a minimum and with little access to them because of the closing of the roads. I feel hiking, horseback riding, and hunting are the original uses of the forest lands and should be made available for the taxpayers to enjoy. Michigan is a winter, water, and forest wonderland that we are not promoting for our Michigan residents, nor are we advertising our beautiful state to bring in tourists to enjoy are land.

I have been trail riding in several other states and places like Brown County, Indiana and the area around Jamestown, Tennessee cater to and promote their areas for equestrian use. Horse enthusiasts will travel to other states to enjoy the area riding and bring money into the community. Michigan does have the across the state horse ride that brings in tourists from out of state and Canada, but Michigan could do so much better to make our state forest areas more user friendly. With the recent legislation and land purchases, the taxpayer is feeling like government does not want us to use the land. What a shame to have such great areas that can't be enjoyed and aren't being used to bring in extra revenue.

I thoroughly support less government control of our lands.

Sincerely,

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